WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus comprising:

reception means, for receiving, from a different apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, search results that include location information concerning the hierarchical locations of said apparatuses; and

control means for displaying a hierarchical location relationship for said apparatuses in accordance with said hierarchical location information.

2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

storage means, for storing a plurality of sets of map data, corresponding to hierarchical-type location information, that hierarchically represent information concerning the locations of apparatuses in said system,

wherein said control means displays said hierarchical location relationship based on said map data stored in said storage means and said location information received by said reception means.

3. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said search results include a plurality of sets of map data, which correspond to said hierarchical-type location information, that

hierarchically represent information concerning said locations of said apparatuses.

4. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

search range designation means, for designating a search range when a request for a search is transmitted to said different apparatus; and

display range designation means, for designating a display range, before data is displayed by said control means, based on said hierarchical locations of said apparatuses.

5. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

notification means, for notifying said different apparatus of user information that is indicated by a user of said information processing apparatus,

wherein said reception means receives search results in accordance with said user information.

6. An information processing apparatus, which is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, comprising:

management means, for managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of apparatuses in said system;

reception means, for receiving, from a different apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for; and

search means, for conducting a search based on said location information received by said reception means, on user information provided by a user for said different apparatus, and on said location information managed by said management means.

7. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said search means limits said apparatuses to be searched for in accordance with said user information.

8. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said search means limits the locations to be searched for said apparatus in accordance with said user information.

9. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

transmission means, for transmitting search results obtained by said search means to said different apparatus,

wherein said search results transmitted by said transmission means include location information that

hierarchically represents the locations of said apparatuses.

10. An information processing apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means, for storing a plurality of map data that correspond to said location information that hierarchically represents information concerning said locations of said apparatuses; and

transmission means, for transmitting said search results obtained by said search means to said different apparatus,

wherein said search results transmitted by said transmission means include said map data that are consonant with said search results.

11. An information processing apparatus, which is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, comprising:

management means, for managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of apparatuses in said system;

storage means, for storing a plurality of sets of map data for individual ranks in order to hierarchically represent the locations of apparatuses;

reception means, for receiving, from a different apparatus, a search condition that includes location

information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for and hierarchical information that indicates a rank for which said different apparatus displays search results;

search means, for conducting a search based on said location information received by said reception means and said location information managed by said management means; and

transmission means, for selecting map data in accordance with said search results obtained by said search means and said hierarchical information received by said reception means, and for transmitting said map data to said different apparatus.

12. A system comprising:

a plurality of information processing apparatuses,

wherein a first information processing apparatus is capable of searching for apparatuses in said system and includes

management means, for managing location information that hierarchically represents locations of apparatuses in said system, and

transmission means, for preforming a search under search conditions including location information for an apparatus to be searched for and said location information managed by said management means, and for transmitting, to a second information processing

apparatus, search results that include location information concerning the hierarchical locations of said apparatuses; and

wherein said second information processing apparatus includes

reception means, for receiving said search results form said first information processing apparatus, and

control means, for displaying a hierarchical location relationship of said apparatuses in accordance with said location information that is included in said search results received by said reception means.

13. A system comprising:

a first information processing apparatus that can search for apparatuses in said system; and

a second information processing apparatus that can request a search be performed by said first information apparatus,

wherein said first information processing apparatus includes

management means, for managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of apparatuses in said system,

reception means, for receiving, from said second information processing apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning

the location of an apparatus to be searched for, and

search means, for conducting a search based on said location information received by said reception means, on user information provided by a user for said second information processing apparatus, and on said location information managed by said management means.

14. A system comprising:

a first information processing apparatus that can search for apparatuses in said system; and

a second information processing apparatus that can request a search be performed by said first information apparatus,

wherein said first information processing apparatus includes

management means, for managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of apparatuses in said system,

storage means, for storing a plurality of sets of map data for individual ranks in order to hierarchically represent the locations of apparatuses,

reception means, for receiving, from said second information processing apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for and hierarchical information that indicates a rank for which said second information processing apparatus

displays search results,

search means, for conducting a search based on said location information received by said reception means and said location information managed by said management means, and

transmission means, for selecting map data in accordance with said search results obtained by said search means and said hierarchical information received by said reception means, and for transmitting said map data to said second information processing apparatus.

15. A method for controlling an information processing apparatus comprising:

a reception step of receiving, from a different apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, search results that include location information concerning the hierarchical locations of said apparatuses; and

a control step of displaying a hierarchical location relationship for said apparatuses in accordance with said hierarchical location information.

16. A method, for controlling an information processing apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, comprising:

a management step of managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of

apparatuses in said system;

a reception step of receiving, from a different apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for; and

a search step of conducting a search based on said location information received at said reception step, on user information provided by a user for said different apparatus, and on said location information managed at said management step.

17. A method, for controlling an information processing apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, comprising:

a management step of managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of apparatuses in said system;

a storage step of storing a plurality of sets of map data for individual ranks in order to hierarchically represent the locations of apparatuses;

a reception step of receiving, from a different apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for and hierarchical information that indicates a rank for which said different apparatus displays search results;

a search step of conducting a search based on said

location information received at said reception step and said location information managed at said management step; and

a transmission step of selecting map data in accordance with said search results obtained at said search step and said hierarchical information received at said reception step, and of transmitting said map data to said different apparatus.

18. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored to control an information processing apparatus, said computer-readable program comprising:

a reception step of receiving, from a different apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, search results that include location information concerning the hierarchical locations of said apparatuses; and

a control step of displaying a hierarchical location relationship for said apparatuses in accordance with said hierarchical location information.

19. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored to control an information processing apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, said computer-readable program comprising:

a management step of managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of

apparatuses in said system;

a reception step of receiving, from a different apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for; and

a search step of conducting a search based on said location information received at said reception step, on user information provided by a user for said different apparatus, and on said location information managed at said management step.

20. A storage medium on which a computer-readable program is stored to control an information processing apparatus that is capable of searching for apparatuses in a system, said computer-readable program comprising:

a management step of managing location information that hierarchically represents the locations of apparatuses in said system;

a storage step of storing a plurality of sets of map data for individual ranks in order to hierarchically represent the locations of apparatuses;

a reception step of receiving, from a different apparatus, a search condition that includes location information concerning the location of an apparatus to be searched for and hierarchical information that indicates a rank for which said different apparatus displays search results;

a search step of conducting a search based on said location information received at said reception step and said location information managed at said management step; and

a transmission step of selecting map data in accordance with said search results obtained at said search step and said hierarchical information received at said reception step, and of transmitting said map data to said different apparatus.